

NEWS OF THE STAGE AND ITS PEOPLE



MARIE DORO AND C. AUBREY SMITH IN "THE MORALS OF MARCUS," NATIONAL.

"The Wolf" Lacks Originality; Climax Spoiled by Gun Play

THE ONLY novelty offered the Washington theatergoers last week was a decided disappointment. From the reports that had been received from New York of Eugene Walter's first play, "Paid in Full," the public expected to find in "The Wolf," which had its premiere at the Belasco Monday night, a drama both original in theme and forceful in treatment. It proved to be neither.

The plot of "The Wolf" is sordid and commonplace, the one departure from the average melodrama being the restriction of the action to five persons and the adherence to the Greek standards in the unity of time. Comedy, which forms an essential element of every all-wood and a yard-wide melodrama, is undeveloped in this new piece by Mr. Walter, and in this respect it falls short of the standard set for plays of the "thriller" type.

The playwright is coherent in developing his plot, and he does not meander into the fields of fancy and dream. This much can be said frankly in praise of his work. His character drawing, however, lacks vitalizing force and any distinctive quality. A grievous fault in his work is the tendency to become vulgar and obscene in his efforts at realism. The confession, for example, of McDonald, the contractor, to Jean, the Canadian, about the women whose lives he has blighted, may be consistent with the character of the moral degenerate depicted, but the brutal frankness of the language is offensive to say the least. We accept the harsh, incisive and the inexorable frankness of an Ibsen or a Hauptmann in dealing with passion and social sin, because there is a big idea and a compelling motive which requires such treatment, but when course and lewd dialogue is the mere banter between two characters like McDonald and his companion Huntley, the bounds of decency are overstepped, and a sound protest should be lodged.

Mr. Walter lost a splendid opportunity

for a really gripping scene in the last act by resorting to gun play. A silent duel in the dark between the implacable foes, McDonald and Jean, would have held the interest of the audience unwaveringly, but by introducing his old scene with the galling gun preliminary the attention was distracted. Titters of merriment were heard throughout the theater, the solemnity of the moment was lost, and what might have been a striking climax became a near-farce.

William Courtenay and Ida Conquest worked earnestly to make their roles convincing and appealing. That they did not succeed entirely was the fault of the playwright. The other members of the cast were neither especially brilliant nor hopelessly dull, with the exception of the young man with the rasping voice, who should have a mule placed on his vocal chords.

With a rather dull musical comedy at the Columbia, in which the annoying activity of Bobby Barry, a diminutive would-be comedian, and a graceful pony ballet were the most displeasing and pleasing features, respectively, the theatergoers rushed pell mell to the National last week, where the musical lodge-podge and extravaganza, "The Follies of 1907," played to standing room at every performance. The fact that this entertainment had been seen here earlier in the season seemed to make the public all the more eager to witness the display of lingerie and the physical charms of a more or less vivacious chorus.

Leslie Harris, the English entertainer at the piano who appeared in recital at the Columbia Theater Tuesday afternoon, and who will be heard at the same playhouse tonight, was an agreeable surprise to his audience. He is a gifted musician, a clever impersonator, and an interesting talker. There are few, if any, men in his line of entertainment before the public today who are his equals.

ATTRACTIONS AT THEATERS

If Washington extends to Miss Marie Doro the same enthusiastic greeting and approbation which have been accorded this actress by Boston and New York, she will have added one more link to the chain of popular and artistic success which she has been weaving ever since her debut as a star only a few scant months ago. Charles Frohman, under whose direction Miss Doro will appear at the National Theater this week, is considered doubly fortunate in that he chose to raise Miss Doro to stardom honors, and that he selected that four-act comedy by William J. Locke, "The Morals of Marcus," for the medium in which she should make her first flight into higher theatrical altitudes. Miss Doro already had made an enviable reputation as a charming and artistic actress in the role of Clarice, which she played for two seasons with William Gillette.

"The Morals of Marcus" was adapted to the stage by the author of the novel, "The Morals of Sir Marcus Pridemore." It is said to be brilliant in dialogue, original in characterization, strong and delightful in action and climax. C. Aubrey Smith, who created the role of Sir Marcus in London, plays the part with Miss Doro, and in the cast are such players as Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, a niece of the English actor, and Forrest Robinson.

"GOING SOME" QUEER TITLE OF PLAY AT BELASCO

A new comedy, with the striking and unusual title "Going Some," is to be presented by Liebler & Co. at the Belasco Theater this week, under the personal direction of one of the best-known stage directors in the United States, George Marion, who recently finished his labors as producer of "The Merry Widow." "Going Some" was written by Paul Armstrong, author of "The Heir to the Heiress," and "Salomy Jane," and Rex Beach, widely known as the author of "The Spoilers," and the official historian of Alaska.

The play deals with life on a New Mexico ranch, and treats the West from a humorous viewpoint, something which has never been successfully attempted. The characters are all vividly drawn, and strongly individualized, and the lines of the play are said to teem with picturesque verbiage and racy slang. A company of comedians interprets the play. It includes Richard Bennett, who will be remembered for his work in "The Lion and the Mouse" and "The Hypocrites," and James E. Sullivan, who has just returned from London, where he has been playing eccentric comedy roles several seasons, and Mr. Marion, the producer, who returns to the stage after an absence of ten years to give a characterization of a delightful mad man.

"THE CLANSMAN" RETURNS TO COLUMBIA THEATER

"The Clansman," the Ku Klux Klan drama, is booked at the Columbia Theater for this week. Franklin Ritchie will play the title role in the production, which Eugene Hayden will be the Vermont abolitionist's daughter Elsie. The laughable dark parts have been entrusted to Barry Maxwell, Maude Durand and Grace Richardson, and the villainous ruffian character to James J. Ryan. Others in the cast include M. J. Jordan, Guy B. Hoffman, Murry Woods, J. L. Sweeney, George A. Linderman, John J. Flanagan, Earl Lee, John V. McDonald, Mortimer Ritchie, Ruth Hart, Tolet, Myrreman, Mae Burgess and Edna Davis. These are the selection of the principals who will be sent to England in the spring to inaugurate "The Clansman's" three-year tour around the world. There are many players of smaller parts and supers in the mob scenes, making in all a company of seventy-five people.

HARRY CLAY BLANEY AT THE NEW ACADEMY

Harry Clay Blaney, who is starring in "Willie Live, the Boy Detective," by Charles E. Blaney, and which will be presented at the New Academy all week, starting tomorrow night, will be remembered in the character of Willie Live in "Across the Pacific," and "The Boy Behind the Gun."

In the "Boy Detective" he assumes the role of an express company detective, who, after many trials and tribulations, breaks up the strongest and best-equipped band of express robbers in the country. Miss Kitty Wolf plays the part of a Bowery coquet singer, Willie's sweetheart, and eventually rescues him just



THE BOY DETECTIVE
HARRY CLAY BLANEY
AND KITTIE WOLF
AT THE NEW ACADEMY

VARIED BILL THE OFFERING AT CHASE'S THIS WEEK

Chase's this week will present W. H. Thompson and Company, Eugene Jepson and Company, Stuart Barnes, Mlle. Marguerite and her haute école horses, the Murray sisters, the Arlington Four, the Yamamoto brothers, and the motion pictures, "The Pearl Fisher." W. H. Thompson is giving "For Love's Sweet Sake," a comedy that affords the actor a wide range. Eugene Jepson and company will present "The Mayor and the Manicure," by George Ade.

"HEK MAD MARRIAGE" AT THE MAJESTIC THEATER

There will be presented at the Majestic, this week, one of the most successful melodramas now touring the country. It is Jean Barriere's "Hek Mad Marriage." While it contains many sensational scenes, some of which are new to the stage, it is said this drama cannot be classed with the clap-trap, blood-and-thunder melodrama so much in evidence.

In the portraying company are found such names as Amy Shaffer Barrymore, Marie Barker, Celia Rosewood, Orrin T. Burke, William D. Howell, Henry L. Barker, J. Paul Jones, and others.

Mardi Gras Burlesquers.

The company that gives away "real money" is coming to this city and will be seen at the Gayety Theater during the week commencing tomorrow. It is called the Mardi Gras Beauties, and is said to be absolutely new, not only in its equipment, but in its ideas as well. The money donation will come during the performance, when the principal comedian, Harry Marks Stewart, will sing a song with the title of "Money," emphasizing his vocal efforts by throwing into the audience a quantity of "stage" money, but in the distribution there will be bills of the denomination of \$1, \$2, and \$5 in United States currency, which the lucky ones will secure. Discarding the time-honored custom of offering two burlesques, the feature of the bill will be a lively two-act musical comedy by Harry Marks Stewart, entitled "Tom and Jerry."

"California Girls" at Lyceum.

The play by the "Sultan's Wives," that will be produced by the "California Girls" Burlesque Co. at the New Lyceum Theater, is laid in one of the eastern provinces of Turkey, where the old Sultan has gone to attend a national celebration, and at the same time, to select a bunch of new wives who will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The closing act is a burlesque entitled "The Girl From Chelsea."

Attractions Next Week

Immediately following grand opera season at the New National, the regular theatrical season of 1907-08 will close at this theater with Richard Carle, late star of "The Spring Chicken," in a new comedy, with music, "Mary's Lamb."

Among the members of Mr. Carle's company are John B. Park, baritone; Frank Belcher, basso; Ray Youngman, tenor; Harry Montgomery, Abbott Adams, and several others. The chorus of "Mary's Lamb" was recruited partly from among the young girls who appeared in "The Spring Chicken."

This will be the last regular attraction at the New National. The summer opera season will open the week beginning April 27, there being no intermission between the regular season and the summer stock.

Next week at the Belasco James T. Powers and a large and efficient company will return to Washington in the English musical comedy, "The Blue Moon." Mr. Powers was cordially received in this offering at the Belasco last season. The story of the piece is consistent and relates to certain happenings at an English army post in India. Both European and Orientals are introduced in profusion. Mr. Powers portrays the part of an English soldier, out of which he gets no end of keen fun. In fact, it is thought by many to be Mr. Powers' funniest characterization.

To see Lyman H. Howe's new program of moving pictures to be shown at the Columbia Theater next week, with usual matinees Thursday and Saturday. It is said to equal a visit to Holland, France, England, Morocco, Zululand, and to experience a ride in an automobile, racing eighty miles an hour; a thrilling midnight fire in a big city, and to see wild birds at home; a hunt in the Arctic regions; the stone quarries in full blast near Cherbourg, France; and many other features contributed by almost every known quarter of the globe.

Chase's next week will offer Horace Goldin, necromancer; Maud Edna Hall, Carleton Macy and company, in "The Magpie and the Jay"; Barney Fagan and Henrietta Byron, in "An Entertaining Oddity"; the Village Choir; the Great Richards; Work and Ower; Adamini and Taylor, and motion pictures.

For the week starting Monday, April 13, the Academy will present Thomas E. Shea in a repertoire of standard plays. Monday night and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday matinees, the offering will be "A Soldier of the Cross." On Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will be presented, and Wednesday and Thursday nights Mr. Shea will present "The Bells."

"Molly Bawn," written by Beulah Poynter, the author-actress, and founded on the novel by the "Duchess," will be presented for the first time in this city at the Majestic next week. The play will be presented by a company of players, including Miss Beatrice Foyes, who appears in the title role, and James A. Bliss, formerly with the Rogers Brothers.

Heinrich Conried announces the usual brief season of grand opera in Italian and French at the New National Theater with the entire company from (Continued on Third Page.)

Marie Doro's Fad Music and Tone; She Is Composer

The majority of actors and actresses are given to hobbies of some sort or other, ranging from miniature dogs to automobiles, and it is rather a sad commentary that this fad for something out of the ordinary is seldom, very seldom, sought for with any idea of self-betterment of any kind. In some instances a poodle dog of the dimensions of a frog seems to be the pinnacle of desire.

But there are those in the profession whose fads, or hobbies, run to serious uplifting things. Under such a classification it might be said that Marie Doro has two hobbies. Chat with her for a while and she will direct the line of conversation quickly to the subjects of music and tone production. There you have her hobbies, but they are not merely fads to tire one. It is a serious business with Miss Doro.

Miss Doro tells you there are two voices, one that gains its power from the lungs and throat, and the other that has its creation in the roof of the mouth. The great power of the latter voice, Miss Doro explains, is secured from human sounding boards. In understandable English these sounding boards are the high cheek bones. Miss Doro will discourse learnedly on the subject, in fact so learnedly that it is quite beyond the kin of the layman.

Miss Doro's other so-called hobby is music. At the outset she had hoped for a great musical career, both vocal and instrumental, but physical limitations necessitated a change to dramatics. Miss Doro, however, continues her musical studies and has composed numerous things of no mean order. She is at present at work on a series that will be published as "The Sir Marcus Waltzes."

RED RIDING HOOD FOR HOME BENEFIT

Miss Hawke will give her annual spring dancing carnival for the benefit of the Episcopal Home for Children (formerly Bell Home) the afternoon and night of Wednesday, April 23.

The fairy play, "Little Red Riding Hood," introducing fancy and character dancing, will be given at the matinee, and the dancing carnival at night. Both productions will be elaborately staged and costumed. Ensemble and solo dances will be artistically arranged. A number of the boxes and tickets have already been taken by prominent society people and a list of patronesses will be given later.

This home is under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, but gladly welcomes little children of all denominations. On account of the overcrowded conditions of the home, it is unable to accommodate all who make application; therefore larger quarters are necessary, and it is hoped that the public generally will co-operate and help this most worthy cause.

COHAN AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT.

George M. Cohan, fresh from a European sojourn of several months, returned to theatrical activity Thursday night at Parsons Theater, Hartford, Conn., appearing in the title role of his latest musical play, "The Yankee Prince," which was given its first presentation on any stage.

How "Going Some" Got Its Cognomen From the Authors

Paul Armstrong and Rex Beach, authors of the new comedy which Liebler & Co. are to produce at the Belasco Theater this week, passed many wakeful nights recently before they decided definitely upon the striking and extremely bizarre title of "Going Some" for the product of their joint labors.

"Going Some" was the title originally agreed upon when the play was finished. Friends of both playwrights who had read the play advised against the title, contending that it was too colloquial. The authors were reasonable and willing to listen to suggestions. A hundred or more suggestions were made.

None of these exactly pleased. Then some one who remembered that the leading character was a fresh college youth from the East came in with the suggestion that the play be called "The Freshman." That looked good.

It was finally decided to call the comedy "The Freshman," and the printers were told to go ahead on that basis. That afternoon Beach and Armstrong sat together in a Broadway cafe. "Paul," said Beach, "I rather much like that old title 'Going Some' looks good to me."

"Beach," said the other, "I've been praying silently for you to make a remark like that. I didn't have the nerve. It's couched in the vulgar vernacular of the street, but it's different, and only a few things are different nowadays."

And so it came to pass that the printers were called up and told that "Going Some" had been selected instead of "The Freshman," and that happiness and peace of mind reigned atop of two certain pillows that night.

LANGTRY TO PRESENT NEW PLAY BY GRUNDY

Mrs. Langtry, the Haymarket Theater and Sydney Grundy should make an effective combination. It will become operative on April 18, when Mr. Grundy's first new play in three years, "A Fearful Joy," will have its premiere.

It was Mr. Grundy who in "The DeGenerates" gave Mrs. Langtry one of the most enduring successes of her career. In the new play there are but six characters. Rehearsals of the piece began recently on the author's sixtieth birthday. The sentimental reason for the selection of the date lies in the fact that "A Fearful Joy" is Mr. Grundy's sixtieth play.

"THE IMPOSTER" HAS PREMIER NEXT WEEK

At the Broad Street Theater, Philadelphia, next week, a new play called "The Imposter," written by the wife of Gustave Frohman, will have its premiere. The players will be recruited from the Marie Doro company, as Miss Doro will not be playing Hay Week. C. Aubrey Smith and Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson will be featured in the cast.

Flashes from the Footlights

Milton and Sargent Aborn have engaged Miss Edith Bradford for the role of Carmen, one of the operas chosen for the forthcoming summer season at the New National. Miss Bradford will make her initial bow in this role during the Washington season. The first four weeks of the summer season at the National will be devoted to grand opera.

Robert Drouet, well known to Washington theatergoers, is this season leading man for Maxine Elliott and in her new play, "Myself-Bettina." He appears in the role of a clergyman. It will be remembered that Mr. Drouet assumed the part of the clergyman in "The Christian." Ministers, it would seem, fall to his lot.

Francois Ring and Thomas Meighan have resigned from "The Man of the Hour" company and will go to London to play important parts in "The College Widow," which Henry W. Savage is soon to present in the English capital.

Mlle. Genee will conclude her American engagement in "The Soul Kiss," May 12 and will sail for London to fill summer engagements. She will return to this country in the fall and continue in "The Soul Kiss."

The new play, in which Henry B. Hanis will present Edmund Breese next season, is called "The Nebraska," and is a four-act play by Edith Ellis.

Mary Mannering produced a new play in San Francisco last week, entitled "Memory and Tomorrow." The play is by E. Booth Tilton, business manager for Miss Mannering, and so far as can be learned it is the first work from his pen.

Earl Lee and Edna Davis, two young members of "The Clansman" company, who coyly acknowledge relationship with the Lee and Davis clans of the Confederacy, kept up the troupe's hymeneal record by getting married the other day.

Mr. Brown, the manager of the Pickwick Theater, 211 Pennsylvania avenue northwest announces that this will be the last week the passion play pictures will be exhibited at his theater.

Bijou Fernandez is the latest recruit for polite vaudeville. She will present